

From Our CEO:

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to open our 2019 Community Report with some highlights from the past year at Second Chances and a peek at what's ahead.

Thanks to you and so many generous people in our community, Second Chances hired its second staff member (after me) and first Program Coordinator earlier this year. Jessica Callaghan joined us in May, bringing major enthusiasm for service, reuse, and community. Jessica's years of experience as a nonprofit volunteer and staff member, combined with her exceptional organizational and communication skills are helping us provide free, empowering clothing to even more people in need.

Jessica spent the past few months organizing our office and warehouse; meeting existing provider partners and connecting with new partners; getting clothing, shoes, and accessories for clients; and identifying new clothing sources. We've already doubled the number of people we're reaching! Looking ahead, we'll be able to deepen and broaden our relationships with local providers to reach more community members.


Our shared nonprofit office space in Union Square, Somerville has become a warm and welcoming gathering space and a collaborative work environment. We frequently share ideas and resources with neighboring nonprofit tenants, working together to address community challenges and improve our organizational effectiveness. Bow Market, right behind our office, is an ever-changing, energetic oasis of food, unique products, and community. During this year's constant construction, being in Union Square has been challenging, and we're beyond grateful to those who made the extra effort to visit us.

After experiencing some challenges with our clothing supply, we purchased four extra-secure donation bins, and replaced some older bins this spring. I'm pleased to report that the new style is working out very well, plus we're developing new clothing resources and clothing drive hosts to maintain a high-quality supply for our clients.

Looking ahead, our 15th anniversary is in 2020! We're planning one large celebration and a few smaller ones throughout the year. I hope you'll join us at one or more opportunities to celebrate **our** successes – because **you** are an integral part of our community and our collective success.

The best way for you to support our ongoing growth and effectiveness is by **donating funding online or in the enclosed envelope**. Your contribution provides even more free clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to local women, men, and children while recycling and reusing textiles too. www.secondchances.org/donatefunds.html

Thank you, always, for being part of our generous community,


Andrea Shapiro
Founder and CEO

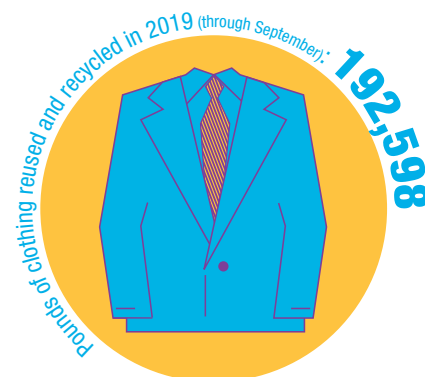


Get Involved

Second Chances depends on lots of self-motivated, creative, dependable volunteers each year and we're so grateful for the help!

- Volunteer your time and/or professional services
- Host a clothing drive at home or work
- Host a clothing donation bin on your property
- Host an event to support our work
- Pick up clothing donations
- Help with marketing and outreach through social media
- Serve on a committee or as an advisor

Learn more and get in touch about volunteering: www.secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp.html



Community Member Profile: Ann Giso

Ann Giso connected with Second Chances more than a decade ago through an online resource that matches prospective volunteers with local organizations and causes. Over the years, Ann and her whole family have become active volunteers, supporters, and donors, and treasured members of our community. Not only has Ann worked with Second Chances, both of her kids—Mike and Ally—coordinated major clothing drives at their high schools. They marketed the drives, gathered thousands of pounds of donated clothing, shoes, and accessories, and even dropped off the donations at the end of the drives. Students at Matignon High School, Ally's alma mater, continued the clothing drive after she graduated.

“... I try to teach my own kids to treat people the way they wish to be treated—to model love, kindness, respect, and empathy.”

Above and below: Ally Giso dropping off clothing donations from two different clothing drives she organized while she was still in high school.



People served in 2019 (through September): **375**



Ally's alma mater, Matignon High School in Cambridge, has continued hosting an annual clothing drive for Second Chances in the years since she graduated. We're grateful for the community connection she helped us make!

Ann says she chose to work with Second Chances because “Second Chances just felt like a good fit—it serves local people and is close to our home. Back then, Second Chances was a small organization, and I liked that they were directly helping people who need clothing—to keep warm, to attend interviews and important appointments. I felt like Second Chances was helping as many people as possible within their reach. I've been fortunate to have a good family and a roof over our heads, and have always tried to pay it forward by being involved through fundraisers and community service. From the time my kids were in preschool through sending them off to college, I've been involved with them in school and community projects. I hope they always remember that great feeling when you know you have helped others who are going through difficult times. I tell them ‘every little bit helps.’”

Over the years, Ann and her husband Joe have been generous financial donors as well. Last year, Ann made a significant financial contribution following her mother's death. Ann said, “I wanted to share a piece of my mom with others. I thought about where to donate to in her name, and it was an easy decision: Second Chances. First, my parents' families lived in the Cambridge/Somerville area and were engaged in those communities. Secondly, my mom LOVED thrift shopping and donating to local thrift shops when she'd clean out our closets. My mom always taught me and my sisters to help others, and so I try to teach my own kids to treat people the way they wish to be treated—to model love, kindness, respect, and empathy. To this day, Mike and Ally load bags of clothing, shoes, and accessories from their closets and leave them in my living room to donate to Second Chances! I'm glad that my support for Second Chances has affected them—they've come to know how Second Chances serves our community. For me, I've always known I was supporting a great cause—thanks for all you do for those in need!”

Second Chances has thrived because of community members like Ann and the Giso family—and so have the people we serve. Because of the Gisos, and other compassionate neighbors like you, we're able to provide people with free, empowering clothing to help people feel comfortable, protected, and cared for while they work through some of life's most difficult challenges, like homelessness, job loss, illness, displacement, and poverty.

Your generous and compassionate contributions of funding, clothing, talent, and time remind us and the people we serve what it means to be part of a community. Thank you for working with Second Chances to support hundreds of neighbors in need every year.



Open House 2019

In June 2019, we welcomed our partners, community members, and colleagues to an Open House at our offices. The office we've been renting since late 2017 is located in an innovative and collaborative shared nonprofit office space owned by Somerville Community Corporation in Union Square, Somerville.

We shared ice cream sundaes, hosted an underwear drive, and gave fun gift bags to our guests. More than 40 people joined us, representing all the communities we serve, donors, and many of our nonprofit and corporate partners. It was great to reconnect with people we haven't seen in a while and to spend time with our colleagues outside of work. Many thanks to those who joined us, our volunteers—Anne, Nancy, and Jill, and to our sponsors.

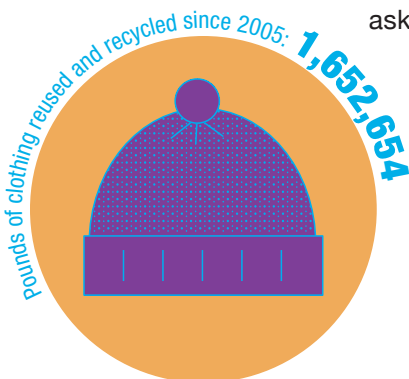


Partner and Client Profile: CASCAP's Ruva Swiswa, LCSW, and Yuri

With our additional staff capacity (more about this in our CEO's letter), this year Second Chances has renewed its longstanding relationship with CASCAP, a nonprofit provider of housing and supportive services in Cambridge and Somerville.

We recently received a request for clothing from Ruva, one of CASCAP's service coordinators who works with tenants in several apartment buildings for lower income elders. Ruva requested clothing for Yuri, an elderly man who lives in one of the independent living settings with his wife. He works part-time and needed some clothing for fall and winter, as well as some things to wear for work and other daily activities.

Because of generous donations from our community, Second Chances was able to deliver warm clothing including a hat, scarf, gloves, two coats, several sweaters, and several pairs of new socks for Yuri. We were so excited to hear back from Ruva. She wrote, "I wanted to say thank you for bringing the clothes for Yuri! He came to see me yesterday all dressed in the sweater and jacket, and he was very grateful. Yuri asked me to thank you on his behalf." There's really nothing that feels better than knowing that the time and care we take in selecting clothing for a client is appreciated and makes them feel great.



Coming Soon!


In late November, we'll launch our annual giving campaign. Funds raised from this year's campaign will provide direct support for our *Clothing Donation Program*, allowing us to provide free clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to even more people in need. We're grateful for your past support, which has enabled Second Chances to be a resource for thousands of people during some of life's most difficult transitions. Thank you.



Andrea Shapiro, CEO, and Jessica Callaghan, Program Coordinator at Second Chances and East Cambridge Savings Bank's PARK(ing) Day 2019 parklet and clothing drive in September.

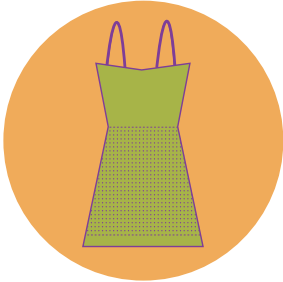
Connect with Us!

For recent news, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, clothing drive results, and much more, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.secondchances.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube too!

 **Second Chances**
Clothing connecting community



P.O. Box 441328
Somerville, MA 02144-1328



Second Chances reuses and recycles clothing, shoes, and accessories so that homeless and lower-income people feel confident and valued as they take their first steps toward brighter futures and, as a community, we can minimize the amount of apparel going into local landfills.

Learn more:
www.secondchances.org

Special Appreciation

Our work—and the successful transitions our clients are making—wouldn't be possible without you, our generous community. We are grateful to hundreds of donors of funding, clothing, gift cards, and other goods; companies and organizations that host clothing drives; our amazing volunteers; and so many colleagues and advisors who have provided free and discounted services to Second Chances.

And we're immensely grateful to the following companies, foundations, and organizations:

For lead financial support of our work in 2019 (through September)

Cashmere

- TJX Companies
- Corderman & Company

Wool

- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation

Linen

- East Boston Savings Bank

Cotton

- Community Credit Union
- Eastern Bank
- Hillman Homes
- Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
- William & Karen Tell Foundation
- Triumvirate Environmental
- Tufts University
- Webster Bank

Other generous sponsors and in-kind donors

- Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation
- Bombas
- Cambridge Trust
- Charles River Apparel
- Converse
- Cradles to Crayons
- Designers Circus
- Donii
- Gentle Giant Moving Company
- Heather Wells, Inc.
- Kiwanis Club of Somerville
- Naveo Credit Union
- Redman Family Charitable Fund
- Stanhope Framers
- Sufi Service Committee (Boston)

For graciously hosting our outdoor clothing donation bins

- Town of Arlington
- City of Cambridge
- Cambridge Crossing / NorthPoint
- Whole Foods Market, Arlington
- Whole Foods Market, River Street, Cambridge

And hundreds of individual donors of clothing, financial support, and more.

Apologies for errors or omissions: please let us know so that we can properly acknowledge your generosity.

There's still time to sponsor our work in late 2019-2020! Help neighbors in need as they find strength, community, and stability, and reach thousands of community members with your brand. Sponsorship benefits and more information at www.secondchances.org/sponsor.html.

You can also use the enclosed envelope to donate or donate quickly and securely online at www.secondchances.org.